

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR US DELEGATION TO 27TH REGIONAL
COMMITTEE MEETING OF WHO'S WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARKER WYMAN,
ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, TO DR. JAMES KING, CHIEF US DELEGATE
TO SUBJECT MEETING. SIGNED ORIGINAL BEING SENT TO
DR. KING'S OFFICE IN HEW.

2. THE 27TH COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC
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REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION WILL MEET

IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES, FROM SEPTEMBER 6 TO 11, 1976.

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3. DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF A DELEGATION FROM THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) AND, JUST POSSIBLY, FROM CAMBODIA, COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, WE DO NOT EXPECT POLITICAL FIREWORKS AT THIS MEETING. AN AGENDA ITEM OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE SRV, AS WELL AS TO LAOS, WILL BE NO. 11 ON "SPECIAL ASSISTANCE" TO CAMBODIA, LAOS AND VIETNAM. THE U.S. POSITION OF NON-PARTICIPATION IS

CLEARLY SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED POSITION PAPER ON THAT ITEM, AND IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO THE LAOTIAN AND SRV DELEGATIONS.

4. WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE INTERESTED IN YOUR REPORT OF THE RESPONSES THE OTHER MEMBERS MAKE TO THE APPEAL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS CAUSE. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT CAMBODIA SENDS A DELEGATION, WE BELIEVE IT TOO WILL AVOID POLEMICS. HOWEVER, IF ANY OF THESE DELEGATIONS SHOULD ENGAGE IN DIRECT ATTACKS ON THE U.S., YOU SHOULD EXPRESS FIRM OBJECTIONS TO THE DELIBERATE INTRODUCTION BY A MEMBER DELEGATION OF CLEARLY POLITICAL ISSUES INTO A FORUM WHOSE PURPOSES ARE PURELY PROFESSIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN.

5. IN THE EVENT THAT A QUESTION ARISES ABOUT THE RIGHT OF THE SRV DELEGATION TO TAKE OVER THE SEATS OF THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, YOU SHOULD, WITHOUT GOING INTO THE MERITS OF THE QUESTION, STATE THAT WE BELIEVE THE MATTER SHOULD PROPERLY BE THE PREROGATIVE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, AND NOT OF A REGIONAL BODY. YOU SHOULD ALSO REPLY IN THIS VEIN TO ANY QUESTIONS RECEIVED ON THIS MATTER.

6. IN SOCIAL GATHERINGS AND IN CONFERENCE CORRIDOR SITUATIONS YOU SHOULD KEEP CONTACTS OR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SRV AND CAMBODIAN DELEGATION MEMBERS TO THE MINIMUM CONSISTENT WITH GENERAL COURTESY AND THE NEED FOR ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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7. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THIS COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE WPRO'S PROPOSED REGULAR BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-79 WHICH THE DIRECTOR WILL FORWARD TO HEADQUARTERS FOR INCLUSION IN THE WHO PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR THESE YEARS. APPROVAL

OF THE WPRO BUDGET BY THIS COMMITTEE MUST EVENTUALLY BE RATIFIED BY THE APPROPRIATE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLIES. HOWEVER WE NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE TENOR OF THE PROGRAM AND THE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL COMPRISE THE WESTERN PACIFIC COMPONENT OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAM OF WHO.

8. THE PROPOSED BUDGETARY ALLOCATION LEVELS FOR EACH YEAR OF THE 1978-79 BIENNIUM REPRESENT A 9 PERCENT RISE OVER THE PRECEDING YEAR'S LEVEL--989,000 DOLLARS FOR 1978 AND 1,078,000 DOLLARS FOR 1979. THESE INCREASES ARE SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE 7.8 PERCENT PROJECTED FOR THE OVERALL WHO BUDGET FOR THE SAME YEARS. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH THE

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ASSEMBLY TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WHILE REDUCING HEADQUARTERS EXPENDITURES CORRESPONDINGLY. NEVERTHELESS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BELIEVES THE TIME HAS COME TO MANIFEST U.S. OPPOSITION TO THE STEADY ESCALATION OF THE PROGRAM BUDGETS OF UN AGENCIES. YOU SHOULD ASCERTAIN THE POSITIONS OF THE DELEGATIONS FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENEVA GROUP--FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN. IF ONE OR MORE OF THEM HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO OPPOSE THE 9 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PROPOSED 1978 BUDGET, WHETHER BY AN ABSTENTION OR BY VOTING AGAINST IT, YOU SHOULD JOIN THEM AND USE STATEMENT "A" (PARA 12) IN INFORMING THE COMMITTEE OF THE U.S. DECISION. IF NO MEMBER OF THE GENEVA GROUP INTENDS TO OPPOSE THE 9 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE 1978 BUDGET, YOU SHOULD INFORM THE COMMITTEE THAT THE U.S. HAS DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED WPRO BUDGET BUT IS RESERVING ITS POSITION REGARDING THE TOTAL WHO BUDGET FOR 1978. YOU SHOULD USE STATEMENT "B" (PARA 13) IN MAKING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE.

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9. WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO NOTE THAT IN CONNECTION WITH SEVERAL OF THE AGENDA TOPICS THE DIRECTOR LAYS STRESS ON THE CONCEPTS OF RATIONAL PLANNING AND EVALUATION. THE U.S. HAS LONG URGED THE ORGANIZATION AND WPRO TO FOLLOW CAREFULLY ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS PROGRAMS. AS THE DIRECTOR INDICATES THAT HE IS PURSUING SUCH A COURSE, THE U.S. DELEGATE SHOULD USE ANY SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE THIS TREND.

10. WE NOTE THAT THE DIRECTOR HAS CREATED AN ADVISORY RESEARCH GROUP AND RECEIVED ITS FIRST REPORT CONTAINING SUGGESTIONS ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES TO BE SUPPORTED BY WHO IN THE REGION. WE WELCOME THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS DESIGNED TO TAP AND DEVELOP THE RESEARCH TALENT AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITHIN

THE REGION. IN VIEW OF THE AMOUNT OF SUCH RESEARCH ALREADY ON-GOING, WE FEEL THAT THE DIRECTOR SHOULD PROCEED WITH CAUTION. HE SHOULD KEEP INITIAL COSTS TO A MINIMUM, AND COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH WHO HEADQUARTERS WHICH IS CURRENTLY WORKING OUT THE NEW TROPICAL DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

11. FURTHER GUIDANCE ON AGENDA ITEMS IS CONTAINED IN THE POSITION PAPERS THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE DELEGATION.

12. STATEMENT "A"

MR. CHAIRMAN: MY DELEGATION IS WELL AWARE OF THE CARE AND CONCERN FOR ECONOMY WITH WHICH THE DIRECTOR HAS PREPARED THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1978. IT FULLY APPRECIATES HIS

NEED FOR TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACTOR OF INFLATION WHICH, AS HE HAS POINTED OUT IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1975, PREVENTED THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF LAST YEAR'S PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THE GROWING CONCERN OF MY GOVERNMENT OVER THE STEADILY ESCALATING BUDGETS OF ALL UN AGENCIES HAS REACHED THE POINT WHERE WE CAN NO LONGER AGREE TO SUPPORT THE BUDGETS UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UNDER TIGHTER CONTROL. CONSEQUENTLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, MY DELEGATION WILL VOTE AGAINST (OR ABSTAIN, DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES) THE PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1978.

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13. STATEMENT "B"

MR. CHAIRMAN: MY DELEGATION IS WELL AWARE OF THE CARE AND CONCERN FOR ECONOMY WITH WHICH THE DIRECTOR HAS PREPARED THE PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1978. IT FULLY APPRECIATE HIS NEED FOR TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACTOR OF INFLATION WHICH, AS HE HAS POINTED OUT IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1975, HAMPERED THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF LAST YEAR'S PROGRAM. CONSEQUENTLY MY DELEGATION WILL SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1978. HOWEVER, MR. CHAIRMAN, I MUST ALSO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE FACT THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE BUDGETS OF ALL UN AGENCIES HAVE BEEN ESCALATING IN RECENT YEARS. WHILE IT HAS REACHED NO FINAL DECISION ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS ESCALATION, IT HAS INSTRUCTED MY DELEGATION TO STATE HERE THAT OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED WPRO BUDGET FOR 1978 HERE IN MANILA DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR WHO FOR 1978 WHEN IT IS PRESENTED TO THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY NEXT YEAR. END UNCLASSIFIED. ROBINSON

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